

National Assessment Governing Board

Assessment Development Committee

Report of May 17 - 18, 2012

May 17, 2012

Closed Session

Noon – 4:00 p.m.

In accordance with the provisions of exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C., the Assessment Development Committee (ADC) met in closed session on May 17, 2012 from Noon to 4:00 p.m..

Attendees: ADC – Alan Friedman (Chair), Susan Pimentel (Vice Chair), Shannon Garrison, Doris Hicks, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Dale Nowlin, Cary Sneider; Governing Board Staff – Mary Crovo; AIR – Kim Gattis; ETS – Greg Vafis, Lonnie Smith; HumRRO – Steve Sellman; Optimal Solutions – Mark Patridge, Erin Twamley; Fulcrum – Saira Brenner.

Review of Secure NAEP TEL Tasks and Items

The Assessment Development Committee (ADC) met in closed session to review 21 computer-based tasks and items for the NAEP Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) pilot test in 2013. The pilot test will be conducted in grade 8 in preparation for the 2014 national TEL assessment in that same grade.

Overall ADC members were extremely pleased with the TEL tasks and task-based items. The Committee spoke of the tasks as: “amazing,” “very engaging,” and “exceeding expectations.” Members noted that the TEL Framework is very challenging and that National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) staff and NAEP contractors have done outstanding work to develop tasks that measure TEL content and practices. Many ADC members stated that they learned a great deal about technology and engineering from reviewing the tasks.

These engaging TEL tasks represent important advances in assessment, including development of dynamic computer-based scenarios and the ability to measure 21st Century Skills such as collaboration. Members also commented that the TEL tasks will be of great interest to the Common Core State assessment consortia in their development work related to computer-based assessments. Released TEL tasks and the assessment results will also be informative to subject area experts in science, engineering, and technology since the TEL content is highly related to the Next Generation Science Standards.

May 18, 2012

Closed Session

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

In accordance with the provisions of exemption (9)(B) of Section 552b(c) of Title 5 U.S.C., the Assessment Development Committee (ADC) met in closed session on May 18, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Attendees: ADC – Alan Friedman (Chair), Susan Pimentel (Vice Chair), Shannon Garrison, Doris Hicks, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Dale Nowlin, Cary Sneider; Governing Board Staff – Mary Crovo; NCES – Suzanne Triplett, Holly Spurlock; AIR – Kim Gattis, Fran Stancavage; ETS – Jay Campbell, Greg Vafis, Lonnie Smith, Hilary Persky, Gloria Dion; Optimal Solutions Erin Twamley; Fulcrum – Saira Brenner; Pearson – Brad Thayer

Continued Review of Secure NAEP TEL Tasks and Items

The Assessment Development Committee completed its discussion of the secure TEL materials. There were a number of comments to improve the TEL computer-based tasks and items. Committee members discussed ease of navigation, consistency in directions, and other task-specific changes. The Committee's comments will be communicated in writing to NCES for revisions to the tasks and items. The ADC will take action on the computer-based TEL tasks and items at their August 2012 meeting, prior to the 2013 TEL pilot test.

ADC members also provided feedback on the computer-based item review process for TEL, citing specific issues with certain TEL tasks. Some of the difficulties mentioned by ADC members related to reviewing the tasks on their various computers with different operating systems. NCES and NAEP contractors will work on these issues prior to the ADC TEL review at the August 2012 Board meeting. It was noted that NAEP will be bringing laptops into the sampled schools for the 2013 TEL pilot and 2014 operational assessment. Students will have common hardware and software to use for the assessment, which greatly facilitates the NAEP administration as was demonstrated in the 2011 NAEP computer-based writing assessment.

Briefing on the NAEP Mathematics Computer-Based Study (MCBS)

Gloria Dion of ETS provided a detailed briefing on the NAEP Mathematics Computer-Based Study or MCBS. The purpose of this study, conducted in 2012 at the eighth grade, was to investigate the feasibility of a two-stage computer adaptive test. Specifically the study was intended to increase the measurement precision at both the upper and lower portions of the achievement scale. Ms. Dion noted that the study was not designed to test out new math item types. Existing items from the NAEP Mathematics assessment were used, and the MCBS items represented a subset of the entire NAEP math item pool. Because of the study design, need for automated scoring, and computer-based administration Ms. Dion explained that some existing NAEP items were not able to be used for the special study. However, the distribution of MCBS items across the five

content areas was aligned with the percentages specified in the NAEP Mathematics Framework.

Ms. Dion explained both phases of the two-stage adaptive study design and provided a graphic depiction of the stage one routing items, which then determined the second stage set of items: easy, medium or hard depending on a student's performance on the initial routing set. Following the study description, Ms. Dion presented numerous charts and graphs showing performance on the items overall and by demographic subgroup. ADC members commented on the MCBS data showing increased measurement precision, particularly for students who tend to score at the lower end of the achievement scale. Members also were interested in how computer-adaptive testing may become part of the operational NAEP assessment in the near future.

Due to time constraints, the ADC decided to defer the Knowledge and Skills Appropriate Study (KaSA) presentation to their August 2012 meeting.

May 18, 2012

Open Session

Noon – 12:30 p.m.

Attendees: ADC – Alan Friedman (Chair), Susan Pimentel (Vice Chair), Shannon Garrison, Doris Hicks, Brent Houston, Hector Ibarra, Dale Nowlin, Cary Sneider; Governing Board Staff – Mary Crovo; AIR – Kim Gattis, Fran Stancavage; ETS – Jay Campbell, Greg Vafis, Gloria Dion; Pearson – Brad Thayer

Discussion of Expert Panel Report on NAEP Background Variables

In open session the ADC discussed the extensive feedback received on the recent report of the Expert Panel on NAEP Background Variables. The Board had convened this panel and commissioned a report to examine ways to increase the use of NAEP background variables and to recommend changes in the background variables that are collected from students, teachers, and schools.

The expert panel presented its report to the Governing Board at their March 2012 meeting. Since that time, the report has been posted on the NAGB website for feedback. Additional outreach was initiated via online webinars and contacts with policymakers and testing experts to provide feedback on the major recommendations made by the expert panel.

ADC members commented on the large quantity and diverse nature of the feedback received on the report. A number of individuals expressed very strong views on the recommendations including which variables to collect, the amount of time for collecting student background variables, and other factors. The ADC consensus was to hold a teleconference meeting of the Committee prior to the August 2012 Board meeting to discuss the following issues:

1. How the Board Committees review the background variables
2. The time devoted to background variable collection, including the possibility of spiraling background questions among students to reduce the time required
3. Whether the Board should develop an expanded background variables framework
4. The types of studies conducted by the Board, NCES, or others using NAEP background variables.

ADC members will review the feedback again prior to the mid-summer teleconference, and also suggested a joint meeting of the ADC and the Reporting and Dissemination Committee at the August 2012 Board meeting.

I certify the accuracy of these minutes.



Alan Friedman, Chair

06/08/2012

Date